REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1. No new matter has been added because there is support throughout the specification.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based rejection

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2254917.

In view of Applicants amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

GB 2,254,917 describes a method of determining the amount of a fluid or the thickness of a fluid or the thickness of a fluid film on a surface in which a fluorescent medium of a certain concentration is added to the fluid and is excited to fluoresce on the surface, the fluorescent radiation is detected and its intensity is used as a measure for the amount of the fluid or the thickness of the fluid.

GB2254 917A also describes a device for determining the amount of a fluid or the thickness of a fluid on a surface comprising a radiation source which irradiates the fluid on the surface and contains a fluorescent medium of a certain concentration, a sensor which detects the intensity of the fluorescent radiation and an evaluation device which determines the amount of the fluid or the thickness of the fluid film on the basis of said radiation intensity. More specifically, GB2,254,917 describes and claims a device for determining the thickness or amount of a dampening-medium fluid film on the surface of a print form of an offset printing machine wherein a fluorescent medium of a certain concentration is added to the fluid film and excited by a radiation source to fluoresce on the surface of a print form. The fluorescent radiation is detected and its intensity is used to measure the thickness of the fluid film. The fluorescent signal is fed to a controller, which has a set value of the dampening medium amount. On the basis of the adjusted difference the controller forms a

signal which actuates an adjusting member which drives the dampening unit of the printing machine such that the dampening medium amount or thickness of the dampening medium film on the surface of the print form is influenced according to the adjusted difference. A metering device is used to add the fluorescent medium to the fluid. In particular, GB 2,254,917 states the following:

> Preferably an automatic metering device is provided to ensure that the fluorescent medium added to the dampening medium always has the desired concentration. Particularly for this purpose a further radiation source and a further sensor are provided in the dampening medium fountain of the printing machine, the intensity of the fluorescent radiation produced by radiation source being determined by the further sensor and being compared with a set value.

In contrast to GB 2,254,917, claim 1 requires the step of adjusting the concentration of said process printing fluids in response to the fluorescent signal from the tracer as opposed to simply adjusting the concentration of fluorescent tracer or actuating an adjusting member, which drives the dampening unit of the printing machine. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this basis for rejection and issue a notice of allowance for claim 1.

Applicants also request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 2 and issue a notice of allowance for claim 2, because claim 2 depends upon a now allowable base claim, claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based rejection

Claims 3-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2,254,917.

In view of Applicants amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection because the element of adjusting the concentration of said process printing fluids in response to the fluorescent signal from the tracer is not taught or suggested by GB 2,254,917.

Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and issue a notice of allowance for claims 3-15.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) and respectfully assert that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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